



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5257

LCO No. 1186

01186____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT REQUIRING RENTERS OF VESSELS TO OBTAIN SAFE
BOATING CERTIFICATES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 15-140e of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) No resident of the state, person owning real property in the state
4 or person owning a vessel in the state shall operate on the waters of the
5 state a vessel which is required to be registered or numbered pursuant
6 to this chapter unless such person has a valid vessel operator license
7 issued by the United States Coast Guard or has obtained a safe boating
8 certificate issued by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
9 Protection. No owner of a vessel shall knowingly authorize or permit a
10 person who is less than sixteen years of age who is required by this
11 section to obtain a safe boating certificate issued by the Commissioner
12 of Energy and Environmental Protection to operate such vessel on the
13 waters of the state without a safe boating certificate, unless such
14 person is under the direct onboard supervision of a person who is at
15 least eighteen years of age who has been issued a safe boating
16 certificate and who has held such certificate for at least two years. A

17 safe boating certificate may be suspended or revoked, pursuant to
18 section 15-132a, 15-133, 15-140l or 15-140n, and shall be valid for the
19 life of the person to whom it is issued unless otherwise suspended or
20 revoked.

21 (b) A safe boating certificate shall be issued under subsection (a) of
22 this section to any applicant regardless of age who provides proof that
23 such applicant has: (1) Successfully completed a course in safe boating
24 operation approved by the Commissioner of Energy and
25 Environmental Protection, which [courses] may include [those] a
26 course offered by the United States Power Squadrons, Coast Guard
27 Auxiliary or [other organizations] another organization, or (2)
28 successfully passed an equivalency examination testing knowledge of
29 safe boating operation administered by the commissioner.

30 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, any person who
31 purchases a new or used vessel may, upon vessel registration, apply to
32 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for a
33 temporary safe boating certificate which shall be valid for three
34 months from the date of registration. No person shall be issued more
35 than one temporary safe boating certificate.

36 (d) [Any] The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall apply
37 to any person operating a vessel other than a personal watercraft, as
38 defined in section 15-140j, which is rented [for a period of fourteen
39 days or less] from a boat livery. [need not obtain a certificate during
40 the rental period.] An owner, agent or employee of a boat livery shall
41 furnish to each rental customer literature on safety and rules of
42 navigation as supplied by the commissioner.

43 (e) Any person enrolled in a course in safe boating operation
44 approved by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
45 Protection may operate a vessel without a safe boating certificate when
46 under the direct onboard supervision of a boating instructor holding a
47 valid instructor number issued by the Department of Energy and
48 Environmental Protection.

49 (f) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
50 fined not less than sixty or more than two hundred fifty dollars for
51 each such violation.

52 (g) Any course in safe boating operation approved by the
53 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, as described
54 in subsection (b) of this section, shall include instruction on the proper
55 means of: (1) Inspecting a vessel and trailers used for transporting such
56 vessels for the presence of vegetation; and (2) properly disposing of
57 such vegetation.

58 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 15-150 of the general statutes is
59 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
60 *passage*):

61 (e) [Neither the] No owner, [nor any] agent or employee of a boat
62 livery shall permit an operator of [any] a vessel which is rented to
63 depart from the boat livery without a safe boating certificate or
64 certificate of personal watercraft operation, if such operator is required
65 by sections 15-140e, as amended by this act, and 15-140j to have a safe
66 boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | 15-140e |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | 15-150(e) |

Statement of Purpose:

To protect the public and persons who rent vessels by requiring such persons to obtain safe boating certificates.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]